

A public information session has been set for Thursday, March 10, at 7 p.m. at the Rahway City Library to inform residents about the expanded quarantine zone in Rahway and the need to cut down approximately 1,400 more trees in the city due to the expansion.

NJDA, USDA and NJ Forest Service representatives will be on hand to explain how the eradication program works and why eradication depends on removing high-risk host trees that are near infested trees. The quarantine expansion occurred after an infested tree was found in late-November in Rahway near the western edge of the existing quarantine zone. Property owners and residents within a quarter mile radius of the infested tree will receive specific notice about the information session.

As of February 24, 1,547 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation area. They included 476 infested trees and 1,071 high-risk host trees. Crews continued to work this week in the residential areas of Carteret. Currently, 11 program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJDA, NJ Forest Service are performing survey, control and regulatory activities. Seven program personnel continue to perform survey and regulatory activities in the Jersey City Quarantine.

The NJ Turnpike Authority provided the NJ ALB Program with a permit to allow program tree climbers access to climb and inspect trees along the section of Turnpike that falls within the Middlesex/Union ALB Quarantine area.

Program personnel will remain on-site during the tree removal process to address concerns from homeowners and to ensure operations continue to run smoothly.

Rosa Yoo, NJ DEP Community Forester/ALB Outreach, and Elisandra Sanchez, USDA APHIS PPQ NJ ALB Compliance Officer, will provide an ALB Presentation to the Union County Garden Club on Wednesday, March 2.